

Idaho's Forest Legacy Areas

Each of Idaho's Forest Legacy Areas includes at least some of the public values cited as necessary for approval as a "forest legacy area": scenic resources, public recreation opportunities, riparian areas, fish and wildlife habitat, threatened or endangered species, cultural resources, or the opportunity for continued traditional forest uses. While probably all of these values exist in each of Idaho's proposed areas, they may take on entirely different flavors, dependent upon the geophysical and ecological character of the area. For example, the values associated with the cool, moist forests of the Northern Panhandle contrast greatly with those of the basalt canyons, scattered trees and sagebrush of the Southwest Area. For a general description of each of Idaho's Forest Legacy Areas, the Subcommittee has relied on the descriptions included in the state's "Official Travel Planner".

Finally, each forest legacy area includes lands where there is a threat that developmental pressures will irretrievably convert forestlands to other uses. Here, again, the scope and magnitude of the threats may vary from the urban sprawl that is quickly surrounding Coeur d'Alene to the five acre "ranchettes" in Teton County.

***Northern Panhandle**—When entering Northern Idaho, it doesn't take long to catch a glimpse of the blue water. The area has the greatest concentration of lakes of any western state. Some are large and deep while others are remote, but all are framed by dense forests, mountains and lush valleys. The region includes three major natural lakes—Priest, Pend Oreille and Coeur d'Alene—and is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts of all types (excerpted from Idaho's Official Travel Planner, Idaho Dept. of Commerce).*

Certainly the most heavily forested region of the state, the Northern Panhandle has a long history of economic reliance on the timber industry, but a growing tourism and recreation industry. It is also one of the fastest growing areas in the state, with population increases of over 40 percent over the past decade. Consequently, there have been major changes from forested lands to rural home sites and urban expansion, particularly around Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint.

**Table 13. Lumber Employment,
Northern Panhandle, 1996-2000**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Boundary	549	661	618	588	569
Bonner 1,038	981	986	1,057	961	
Kootenai	2,018	1,913	1,826	1,836	1,824
Shoshone		130	116	109	110
Benewah	985	993	918	814	805
Total	4,590	4,678	4,464	4,404	4,269

(Source: Idaho Dept. of Labor)

Table 14. Change in Population, Northern Panhandle

	1990 Census Population	2000 Census Population	•1990-00 Population	•Percent 1990-00
Benewah	7,937	9,171	1,234	15.5%
Bonner	26,622	36,835	10,213	38.4%
Boundary	8,332	9,871	1,539	18.5%
Kootenai	69,795	108,685	38,890	55.7%
Shoshone	13,931	13,771	-160	-1.1%
Total	126,617	178,333	51,716	40.80%

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

An abundance of private lands in the Northern Panhandle accompany the abundant forests. While much of the forested area is in federal or state ownership, private lands predominate along the major transportation corridors and urban areas. Of the nearly 1.9 million acres of privately owned lands, three fourths of them are forested.

Table 15. Private Forest Ownerships, Northern Panhandle

County	Total Acres	Total Private Land	Private Forestland	Percent Private Land that is Forested
Benewah	496,640	385,250	280,249	73%
Bonner	1,112,064	440,780	334,265	76%
Boundary	812,032	208,056	124,297	60%
Kootenai	796,928	494,957	306,089	62%
Shoshone	1,685,760	370,066	390,529	106%
Total	4,903,424	1,899,109	1,435,429	76%

(Source: Id. Depts. of Commerce and Lands)

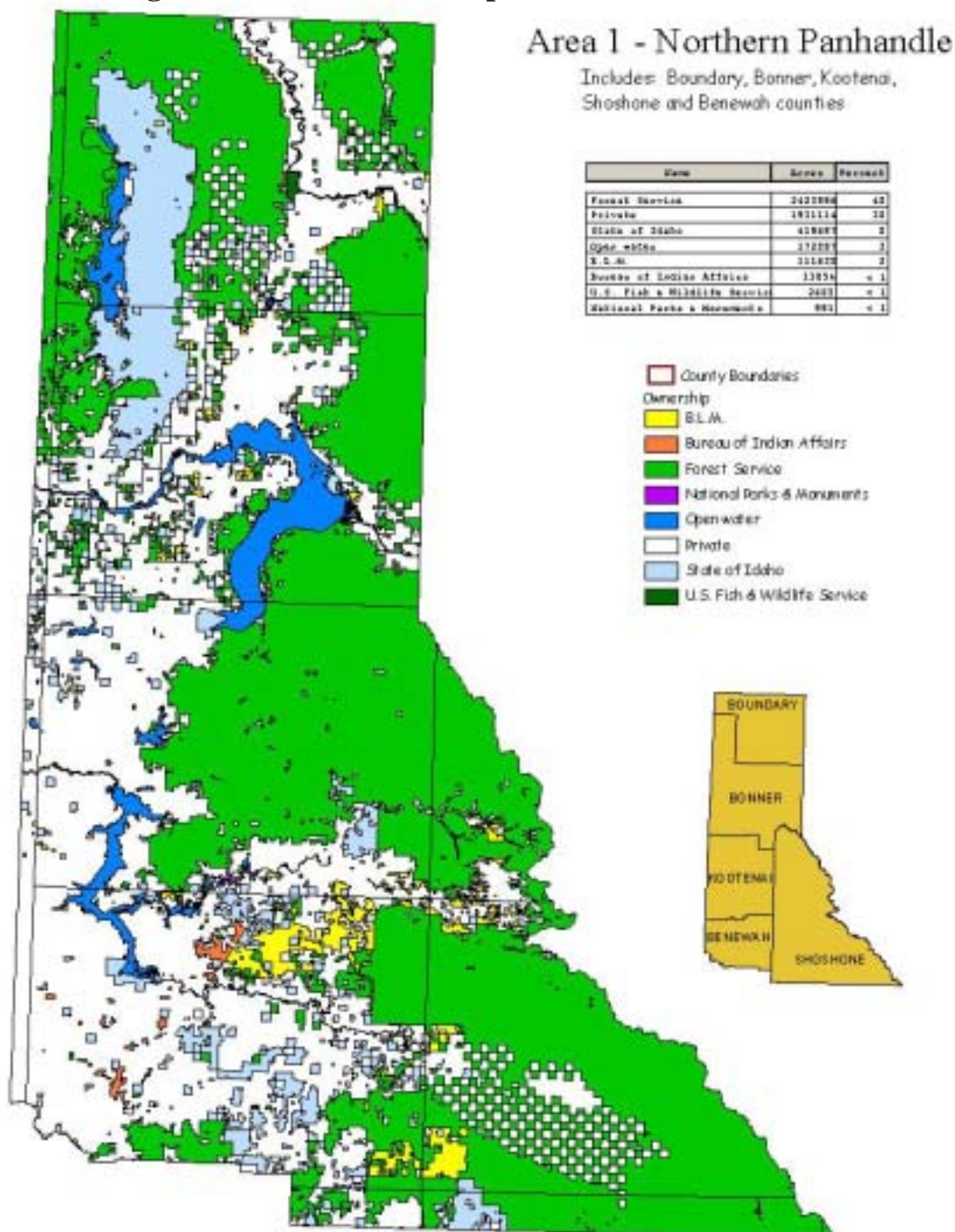
These lands support forests unique to Idaho. The cedar, hemlock, and white pine extend only through the northern third of the state and are reminiscent of coastal stands, a testament to the good growing sites and ample rainfall of the north. The dense nature of these forests also supports two of Idaho's largest and most elusive threatened and endangered species—grizzly bears and woodland caribou. Other species listed as threatened, endangered or candidates for listing are shown in Appendix III. There are no candidate or invertebrate species proposed or listed for the Northern Panhandle.

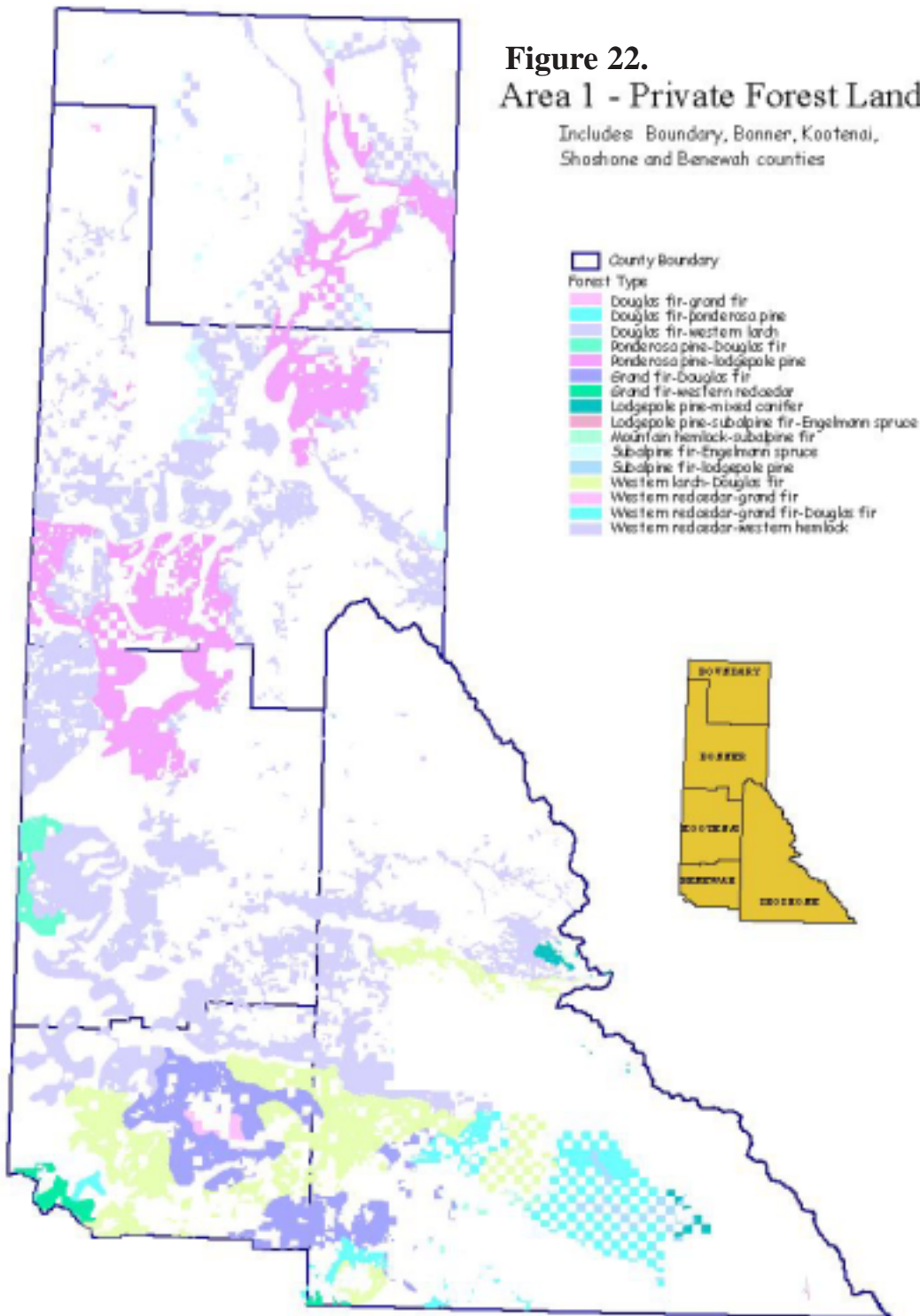
From a recreation standpoint, forested lands add to the ambience of the Northern Panhandle, which attracts a growing number of visitors to the area, even if they do not seek recreational opportunities in the forests. However, many of them do participate in recreational pursuits that are either directly related to the forests or made more enjoyable by them. These include fishing, big game hunting, mountain biking and hiking, as well as those that are more organized or commercial—tour boats on Coeur d'Alene Lake, for example.

Implementation of the Forest Legacy Program in the Northern Panhandle will help protect timber, recreation and wildlife values, particularly in the interface between the growing urban areas and the surrounding, generally higher elevation public lands. As such, the subcommittee envisions many projects that will connect the private lands with larger areas of state or federal lands. Important areas for the Legacy Program include those lands around Priest, Pend Oreille and Coeur d'Alene Lake, the

lower St. Joe corridor, and along major transportation routes. Two wildlife species—whitetail deer and black bear—would particularly benefit from protected habitat in the area around Coeur d’Alene and Sandpoint that is rapidly being developed.

Figure 21. Land Ownership in the Northern Panhandle





Central—North Central Idaho is quintessential Americana—rolling hills and grain fields and small towns. The Palouse is a sea of amber waves of wheat and barley. Beyond the fields, the landscape transforms into endless ridges of forests divided by clear rivers. It is the land of the Nez Perce and the last of America’s colorful log drives down the Clearwater River. Finally, it is the land where Lewis and Clark first saw the Lochsa, Selway and the Snake Rivers (excerpted from Idaho’s Official Travel Planner, Idaho Dept. of Commerce).

This, too, is one of the areas traditionally heavily dependent upon the forest products industry, with Potlatch’s large sawmill and paper complex in Lewiston, along with numbers of smaller, family-owned mills in the Clearwater Valley. While the area has not seen the population growth of north Idaho or the Boise Valley, there have been considerable recreational developments in the upper Clearwater Valley and around Moscow.

**Table 16. Change in Population,
Central Legacy Area**

	1990 Census Population	2000 Census Population	•1990-00 Population	•Percent 1990-00
Clearwater	8,505	8,930	425	5.0%
Idaho	13,768	15,511	1,743	12.7%
Latah	30,617	34,935	4,318	14.1%
Lewis	3,516	3,747	231	6.6%
Nez Perce	33,754	37,410	3,656	10.8%
Total	90,160	100,533	10,373	11.50%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 17. Lumber Employment,
Central Legacy Area, 1996-2000**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Latah	469	474	464	489	481
Clearwater	789	787	739	689	640
Lewis	101	114	110	111	112
Nez Perce	659	674	609	591	590
Idaho	578	488	512	550	514
Total	2,596	2,537	2,434	2,430	2,337

Source: Idaho Dept. of Labor

From a private ownership standpoint, Central Idaho includes the largest industrial ownership in the state, but also an important amount of small, nonindustrial lands. Many of the private ownerships begin to show the characteristics of private lands across the remainder of the state—a mix of farm or rangelands with a component of timber or woodlands where soils and moisture conditions allow. Thus, timber ownerships include more timbered draws and ridges, with a heavy tree cover on north slopes and scattered or no trees where temperature and moisture is more limiting.

**Table 18. Private Forest Ownerships,
Central Area**

	Total Lands	Total Private Lands	Private Forested Land	Percent Private Land that is Forested
Clearwater	1,575,424	496,662	439,389	88.5
Idaho	5,430,528	826,261	368,718	44.6
Latah	689,088	532,695	239,010	44.9
Lewis	306,624	291,922	96,013	32.9
Nez Perce	543,424	420,752	123,555	29.4
Total	8,545,088	2,568,292	1,266,685	49.3

(Source: Idaho Depts. Of Commerce and Lands)

Private forestlands in the Central area define the phrase “working forest landscapes”. There is a long history of timber harvesting and actively managing these lands for timber production within the area. Two of the more unique features of the forestry practiced within this area is the intensive, high yield silviculture that is a hallmark of the industrial lands and the efforts of private and public landowners to bring back western white pine, decimated by blister rust and largely missing from the landscape, at least in the quantities present a century ago.

Big game hunting is perhaps the area’s most popular recreational pursuit, and, while currently somewhat in decline, the Clearwater elk herd is among the country’s largest. Deer, moose and bear also represent plentiful big game species. However, in addition, the area also supports numerous listed species, as indicated in Appendix III.

The combination of big game and outstanding fishing in the Selway, Clearwater, and Lochsa systems represents a large recreational resource for the Central Legacy Area. As a result, there is a noticeable increase in recreational residential development along the major river and transportation corridors, as well as around Moscow, Grangeville, Kamiah and Kooskia. Implementation of the Forest Legacy Program in this area would help protect timber values on lands where there is a long history of commercial forest management and along the important “breaklands” along the slopes and at the tops of the major river canyons.

Land Ownership in Central Idaho

Area 2 - Central

Includes: Latah, Clearwater, Lewis,
Nez Perce and Idaho counties

Owner	Acres	Percent
Forest Service	312,254	61
Private	244,763	31
State of Idaho	17,145	4
B.L.A.	12,181	2
Bureau of Indian Affairs	12,111	< 1
Open water	27,334	< 1
Military Reservations	15,847	< 1
National Parks & Monuments	28,844	< 1
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	115	< 1

- County Boundaries
- Ownership
- B.L.A.
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Forest Service
 - Military Reservations
 - National Parks & Monuments
 - Open water
 - Private
 - State of Idaho
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

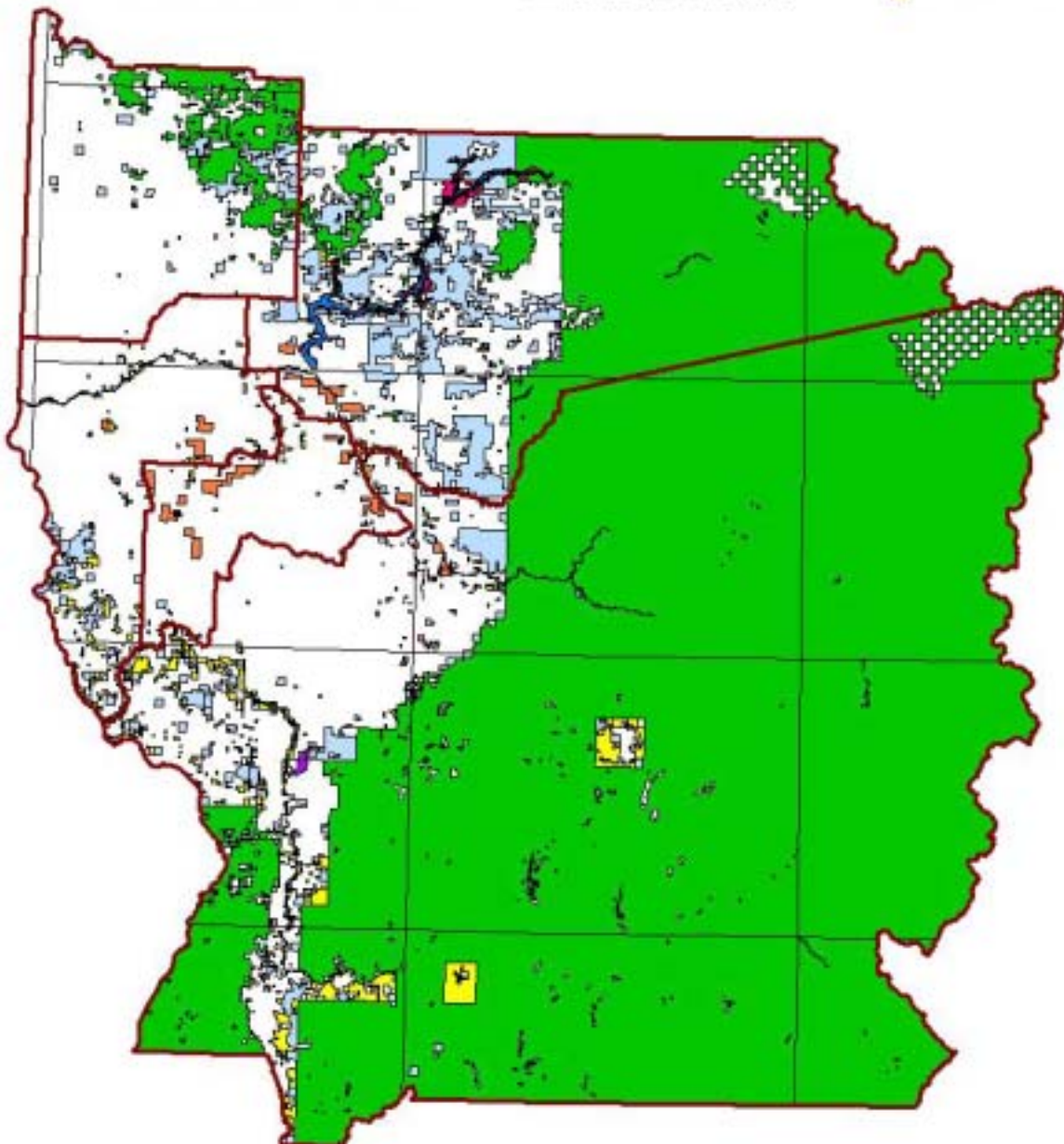
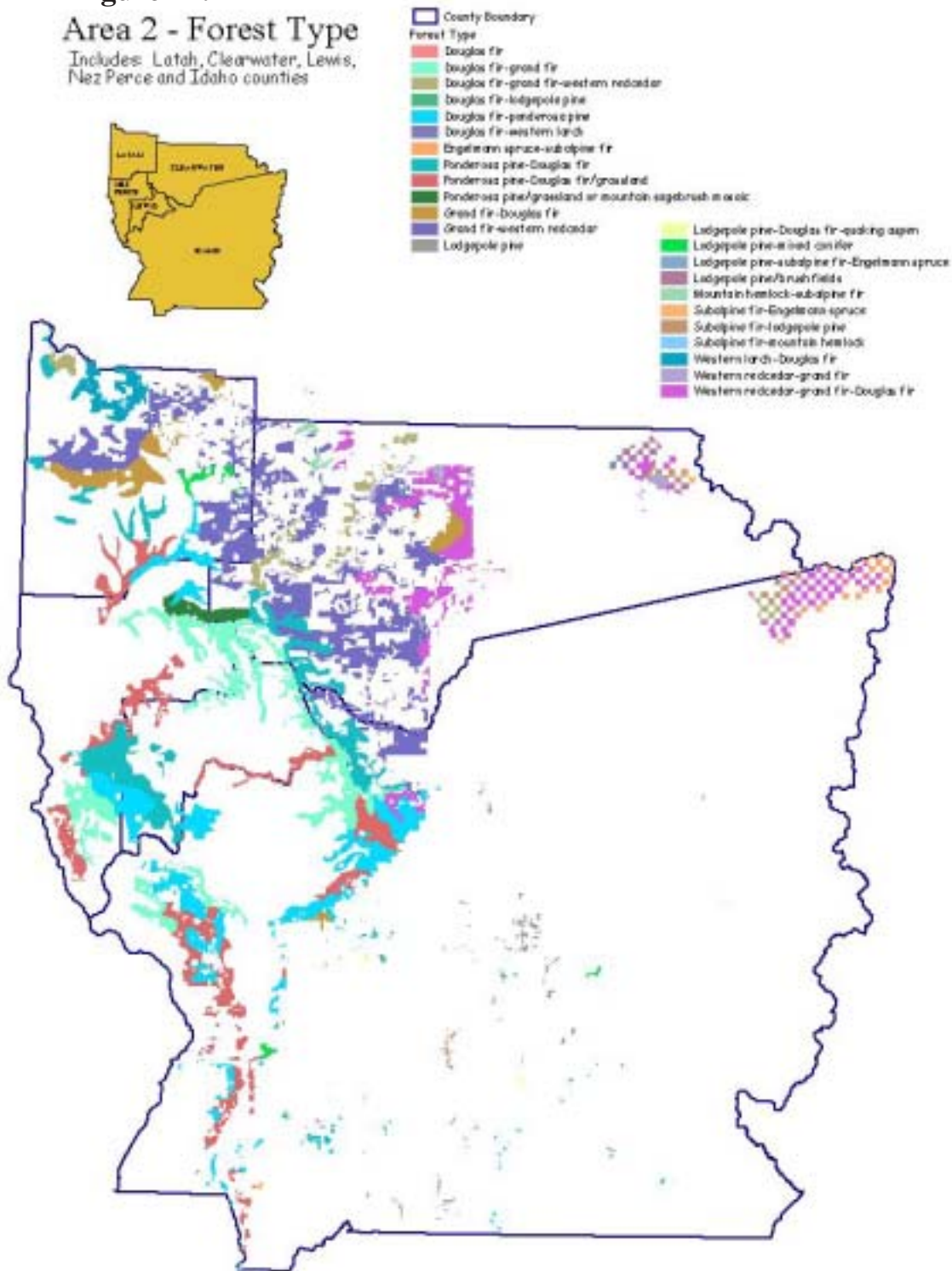


Figure 24.

Area 2 - Forest Type

Includes: Latah, Clearwater, Lewis, Nez Perce and Idaho counties



Southwest—Southwestern Idaho is a study in contrasts. The region begins at the Nevada border with vast expanses of high desert, deep canyons where birds of prey soar and very few people, then transitions into the most populous portion of the state. At this point desert gives way to mountains, crystal clear rivers and pastoral agricultural valleys and great forests. People have been attracted to Southwestern Idaho for centuries. Indian Tribes would meet annually for a two-month trade fair and salmon bake. After gold and silver were discovered in the mountains, Idaho City became the largest city in the Pacific Northwest. Further south, high in the Owyhee Mountains, Silver City looks much the same as she did during the boom times, with over 70 intact buildings dotting the hillsides. The most popular attraction is North America's deepest river gorge, Hells Canyon. The Snake River makes up 70 miles of the Oregon-Idaho border in the 7000' deep chasm. Looking down upon the canyon are the mighty Seven Devils Mountains, an awe-inspiring range that rises 1-1/2 miles above the river, making it a chasm deeper than the Grand Canyon. Thirty alpine lakes nestled among the Seven Devils provide pristine havens for hiking, backpacking and horseback riding.

South of Boise, the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area is home to dozens of raptors that make their homes in the canyon's walls high above the river. The high country of Southwestern Idaho is idyllic Long Valley, nearly fifty miles of pastureland, forests and quaint towns, including McCall, a popular winter and summer resort and adjoining Payette Lake. South of McCall is twenty-mile long Cascade Lake and the town of Cascade. Well stocked with fish and surrounded by over 20 public and private recreation areas, Cascade is popular with anglers, boating enthusiasts, water skiers and those who enjoy camping under the stars.

Elmore County, east of Boise, offers a wealth of recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Climb the 470-foot high sand dunes at Bruneau Dunes State Park, and then stay after dark to explore the heavens at the Bruneau Dunes Observatory. Enjoy boating and fishing at Anderson Ranch or C.J. Strike Reservoirs. In Glenn's Ferry, you can see what life was like on the Oregon Trail at the Three Island Crossing State Park interpretive center. Glenn's Ferry annually celebrates their pioneer history by reenacting the treacherous river crossing (excerpted from Idaho's Official Travel Planner, Idaho Dept. of Commerce).

Largely due to the growth in the Boise Valley, the Southwest Legacy Area has seen some of the greatest incursions of urban growth into rural areas. From Ada and Canyon Counties (not included as Legacy Areas), the additional people have created probably the largest pressures on private forested lands of any region in the state. The McCall-Cascade area has seen huge increases in recreational homes and communities, with more envisioned with the approval of the Westrock Resort.

**Table 19. Change in Population,
Southwest Legacy Area**

	1990 Census Population	2000 Census Population	•1990-00 Population	•Percent 1990-00
Adams	3,254	3,476	222	6.8%
Valley	6,109	7,651	1,542	25.2%
Washington	8,550	9,977	1,427	16.7%
Boise	3,509	6,670	3,161	90.1%
Elmore	21,205	29,130	7,925	37.4%
Owyhee	8,392	10,644	2,252	26.8%
Total	51,019	67,548	16,529	32.40%

This is also the area of the state hardest hit with sawmill closures over the past decade, with mills in Emmett, Cascade, Boise, Council, Horseshoe Bend and Mountain Home all now permanently closed, leaving just one significant sawmill south of the Salmon River. While significant volumes of timber are still produced from the state, federal and private lands in Southwest Idaho, most of the logs are now sent to mills either in Eastern Oregon or Central Idaho.

**Table 20. Lumber Employment,
Southwest Area, 1996-2000**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Adams	244	224	196	177	178
Valley	340	123	118	121	129
Washington		326	375	408	287
Boise	136	120	96	66	67
Elmore		29	33	17	18
Owyhee					
Total	720	822	818	789	679

Source: Idaho Dept. of Labor

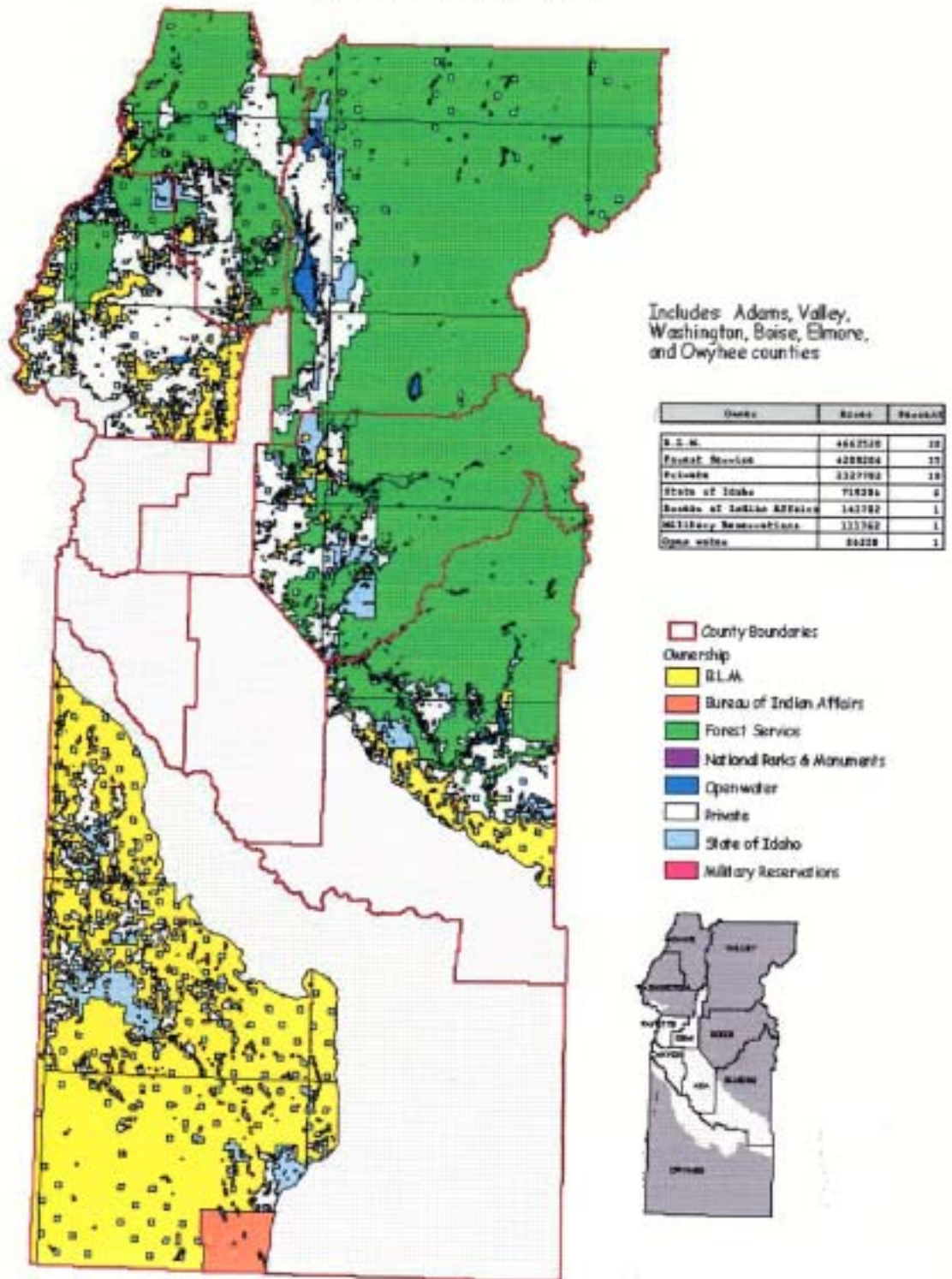
As is true for much of the rest of the state, the bulk of the private ownership is found in the lower elevations, particularly along transportation and major river corridors. Much of it is farmland, with forests and woodlands occupying only those areas where moisture and soil conditions are most favorable and where forested ownerships are usually part of larger ranch or farm operations.

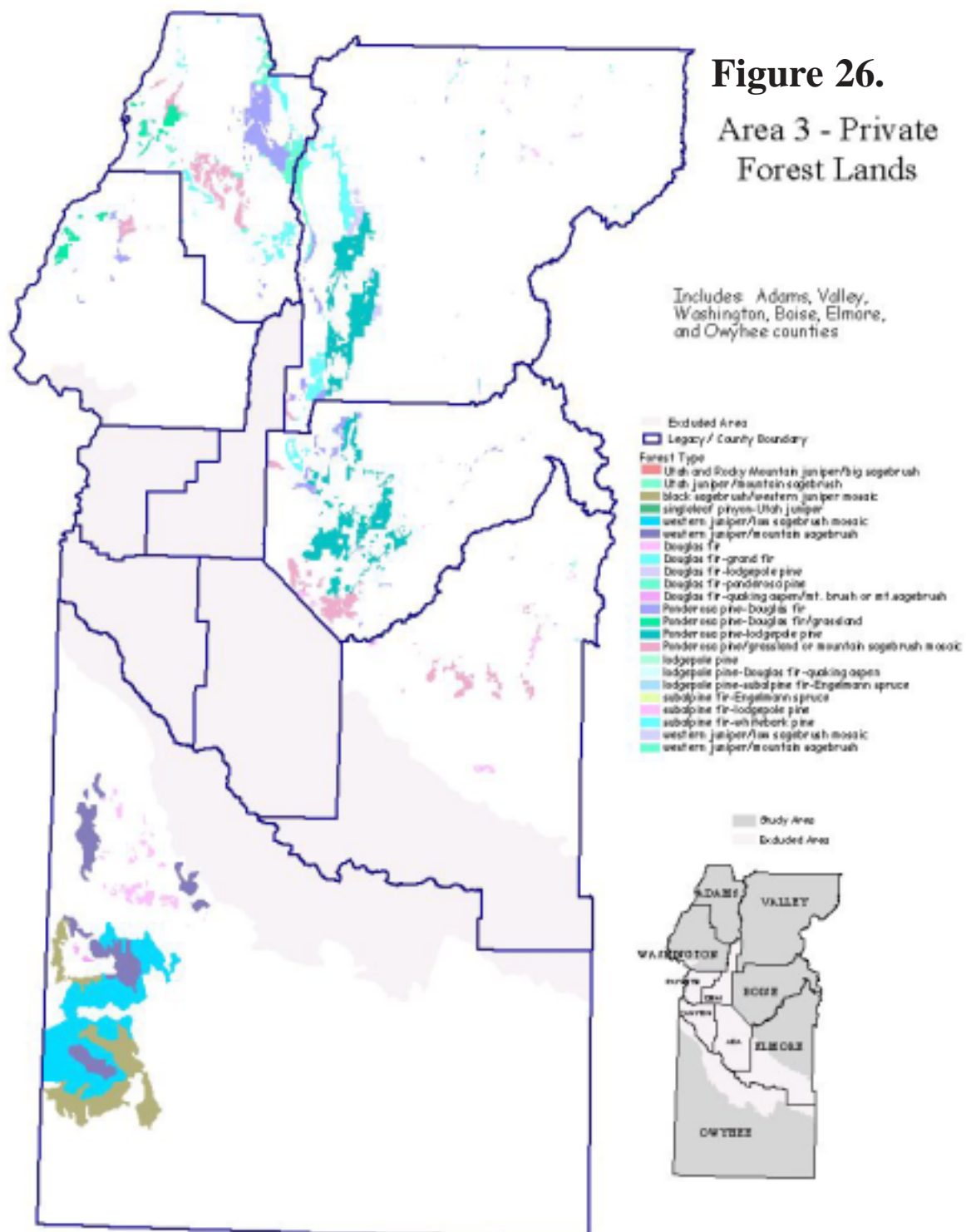
**Table 21. Private Forest Ownerships,
Southwest Area**

	Total Lands	Total Private Lands	Private Forested Land	Percent Private Land that is Forested
Adams	873,408	268,573	72,141	26.9
Boise	1,217,600	227,322	90,783	39.9
Elmore	1,969,792	522,354	14,203	2.7
Owyhee	4,914,176	857,838	68,536	8.0
Valley	2,354,048	221,151	134,144	60.7
Washington	932,096	511,815	7,135	1.4
Total	12,261,120	2,609,053	386,942	14.8

Figure 25. Land Ownership, Southwest Idaho

Area 3 - Southwest





The varied forest and woodland types reflect the change in elevation and moisture from the relatively moist mountain areas around New Meadows and McCall to the arid, high deserts of Owyhee County. Timber species and types include Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, western larch and grand fir with scattered lodgepole and subalpine fir or spruce, while the drier sites may include scattered pines, Douglas-fir and an understory of sagebrush. Desert types may include junipers or pinyon pine as well as various woody shrubs.

Varied vegetative cover and elevations over short distances have created varied wildlife species and habitats. Bear, deer and elk are common and big game hunting is predictably popular. In the lower elevations, bird hunting for chukars and Hungarian partridges as well as forest grouse is equally popular. There is a wide variety of listed and candidate species, as indicated in Appendix III. The Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel is noteworthy in that the total population is small and much of it exists on private land where there are growing developmental pressures.

Given its proximity to Idaho's largest concentrations of people, the Southwest Legacy Area is quickly becoming a playground for those who live and work in the Boise Valley. One has to look no further than the growth in the number of recreational homes in the Cascade, McCall and New Meadows area to understand the impacts of the area's popularity in terms of expansion of urban areas and increases in rural residential areas.

The demise of the forest products industry in the area presents some challenges unique to the Southwest Area, with its history of fires. Many of the forests in the area are in need of thinning and prescribed burning to reduce fire hazards, and there is a commensurate reduction in fire hazards in these timber types from such treatments. The increases in rural residences in these timber types both increase the risk of wildfires and the potential for large monetary losses should they occur. Without mills to use the timber removed from thinning operations, however, completing this work can be prohibitively expensive.

Implementation of the Forest Legacy Program in Southwest Idaho will largely protect recreational values and fish and wildlife habitat. With only one mill in the area, maintaining "working forest landscapes" even though there is a substantial industrial forest ownership in southwest Idaho is likely not to be an achievable goal. However, preventing these lands from being developed will both maintain open space and public access to forested lands that is increasingly rare in the Cascade-McCall-New Meadows area, particularly.

South central—Mountains dominate the northern part of this Legacy area, which includes not only the hayfields of the Camas Prairie but also the resort communities of Sun Valley and Ketchum. To the south and past the agricultural communities of Twin Falls and Burley are the springs and falls along the Snake River Canyon and the Malad Gorge. Forests and mountains resume on the Nevada border with the southern extension of the Sawtooth National Forest and the City of Rocks Preserve.

The area around Sun Valley has certainly seen an expansion in recreational development, with virtually all the surrounding private lands commanding huge prices. Although the area has never had a history of sawmills and logging, the lodgepole and fir forests in the mountains have a rich tradition of sheep herding and mining. While population of the area has increased over 20 percent in the last decade, nearly 90 percent of that growth has been in the Sun Valley/Ketchum and Twin Falls areas.

**Table 22. Change in Population,
South Central Legacy Area**

	1990 Census Population	2000 Census Population	•1990-00 Population	•Percent 1990-00
Camas	727	991	264	36.3%
Blaine	13,552	18,991	5,439	40.1%
Cassia	19,532	21,416	1,884	9.6%
Twin Falls	53,580	64,284	10,704	20.0%
Total	87,391	105,682	18,291	20.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

There are significant ownerships of private forestlands within these counties, as shown in the following table. What is less clear is where the private forestlands are in relation to parks, ski areas and other attractions that would boost their value as developmental property. While virtually any private land in Blaine County is very valuable for rural residential development, the same values do not exist throughout the South Central Legacy Area. Lands close to the City of Rocks or Pomerelle Ski Area will undoubtedly see values rise, however.

**Table 23. Private Forest Ownerships,
South Central Area**

	Total Lands	Total Private Lands	Private Forested Land	Percent Private Land that is Forested
Camas	688,000	214,981	11,658	5.4
Cassia	1,642,624	663,408	27,632	4.2
Twin Falls	1,232,064	558,124	12,163	2.2
Total	3,562,688	1,436,513	51,453	3.6

Source: Idaho Depts. Of Commerce and Lands

Figure 27. Land Ownership, South Central Idaho

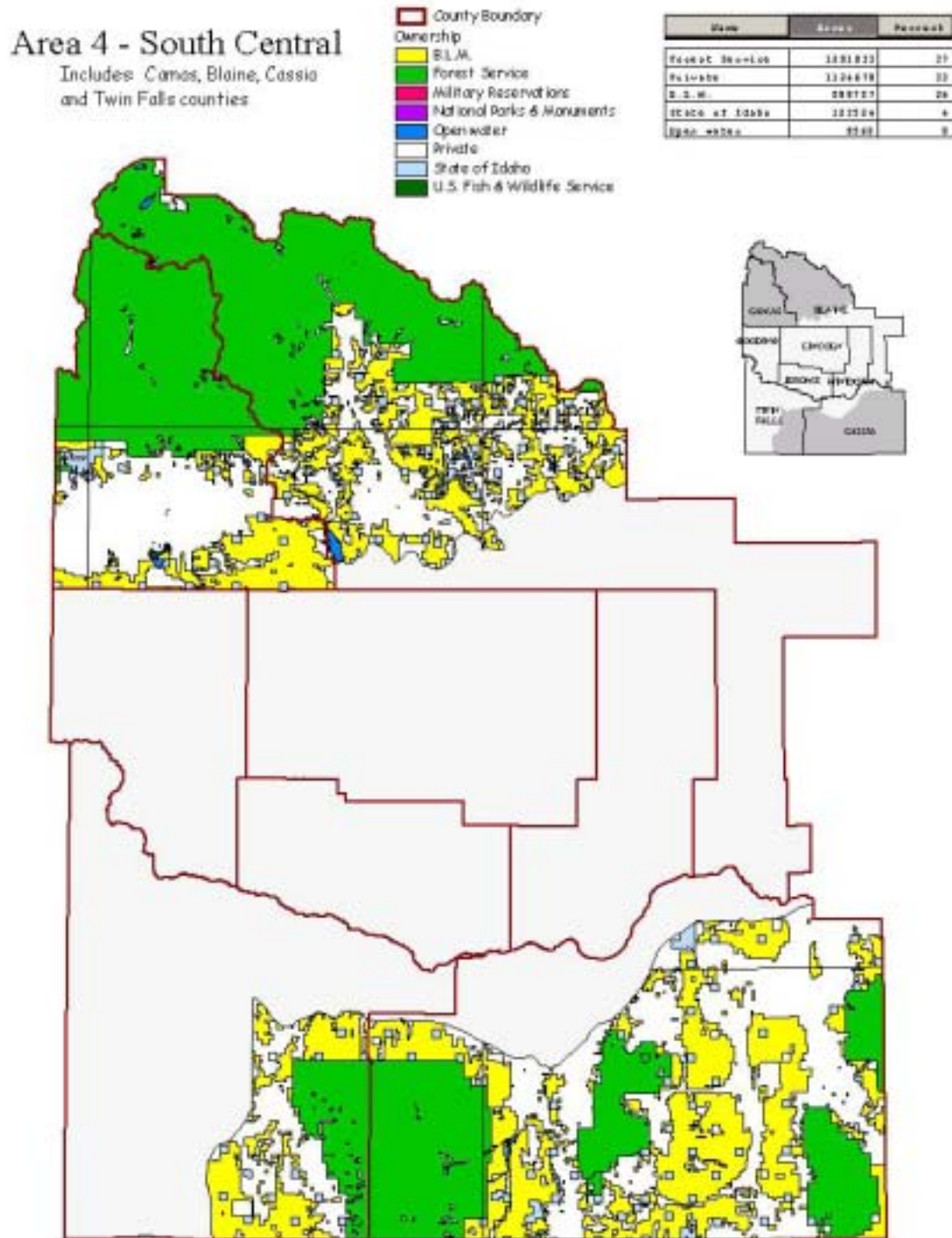
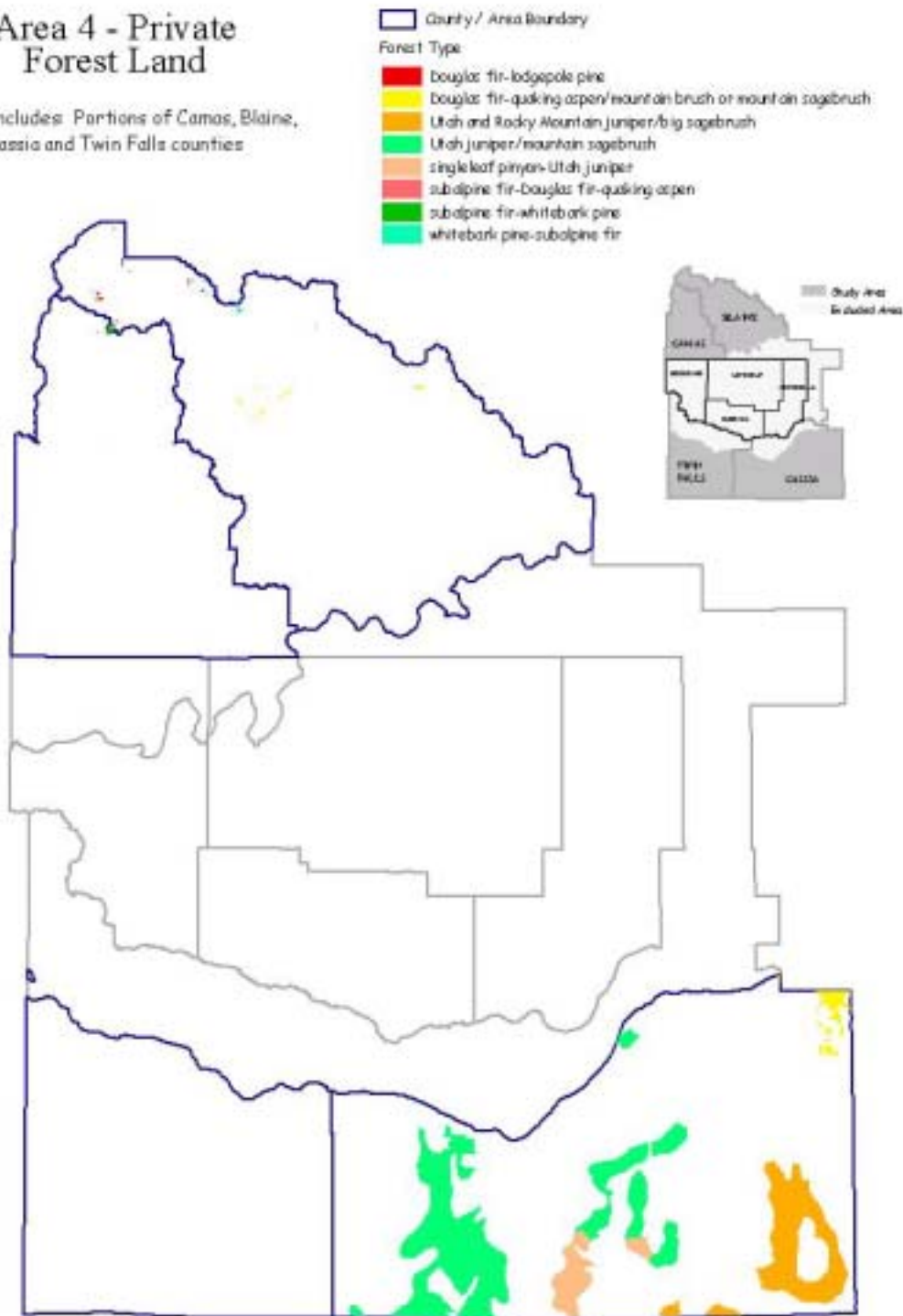


Figure 28.

Area 4 - Private Forest Land

Includes: Portions of Camas, Blaine, Cassia and Twin Falls counties



Throughout south Idaho, one of major values to be protected and carefully managed for is big game winter range, as previously noted. In addition to the values associated with wildlife winter range, a variety of recreational opportunities exist here, ranging from mountain biking, cross country skiing and hiking near Sun Valley to big game hunting in the lands surrounding and within the southern end of the Sawtooth National Forest. The varied landscape also supports a wide variety of non-game species, including the listed and candidate species noted in Appendix III. Implementation of the Forest Legacy Program would help protect these values in the area, particularly if it is directed toward the lands where values, both environmental and economic, are the highest.

***Southeast**—Mountains, lodgepole forests and flat farmlands characterize this far corner of Idaho. Historically, the Shoshone and Bannock tribes migrated through the area with the season to hunt buffalo, deer and antelope. During the westward migration on the Oregon Trail, Fort Hall became one of the trail's most famous trading posts. After the covered wagons came the Union Pacific Railroad and the settlers who irrigated and farmed the high desert lands (excerpted from Idaho's Official Travel Planner, Idaho Dept. of Commerce).*

This area of the state saw smaller gains in population compared to other Legacy areas. Areas around Pocatello and along the Bear River and Bear Lake saw significant growth over the past decade and are seeing recreational and residential developments on the private lands there.

**Table 24. Change in Population,
Southeast Legacy Area**

	1990 Census Population	2000 Census Population	•1990-00 Population	•Percent 1990-00
Bingham	37,583	41,735	4,152	11.0%
Oneida	3,492	4,125	633	18.1%
Franklin	9,232	11,329	2,097	22.7%
Bear Lake	6,084	6,411	327	5.4%
Caribou	6,963	7,304	341	4.9%
Bannock	66,026	75,565	9,539	14.4%
Total	129,380	146,469	17,089	13.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

There are private forested lands and they typically support stands of lodgepole and aspen, with understories of sagebrush or desert shrubs. Much of this land is important big game winter range, especially those lands that connect to irrigated farmlands at the lower elevations.

**Table 25. Private Forest Ownerships,
Southeast Area**

	Total Lands	Total Private Lands	Private Forested Land	Percent Private Land that is Forested
Bear Lake	621,696	314,515	14,181	4.5
Bingham	1,340,672	786,156	51,387	6.5
Caribou	1,130,304	567,127	59,272	10.5
Franklin	425,920	273,366	20,489	7.5
Oneida	768,256	345,903	29,497	8.5
Power	899,648	569,484	36,221	6.4
Total	5,186,496	2,856,551	211,047	7.4

Figure 29. Land Ownership, Southeast Idaho
Area 5 - Southeast

Includes: Power, Bingham, Oneida, Franklin, Bear Lake, Caribou, and Bannock

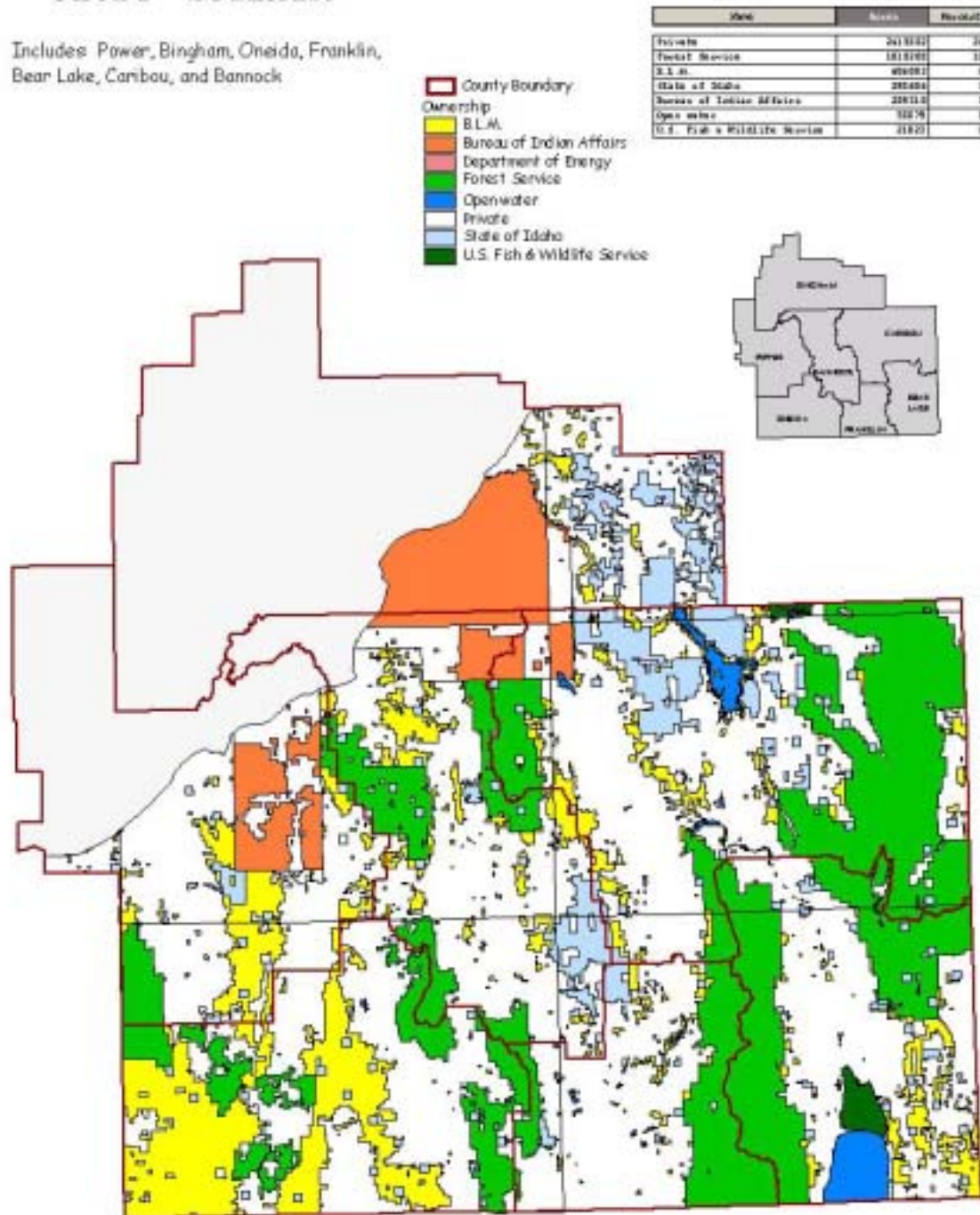
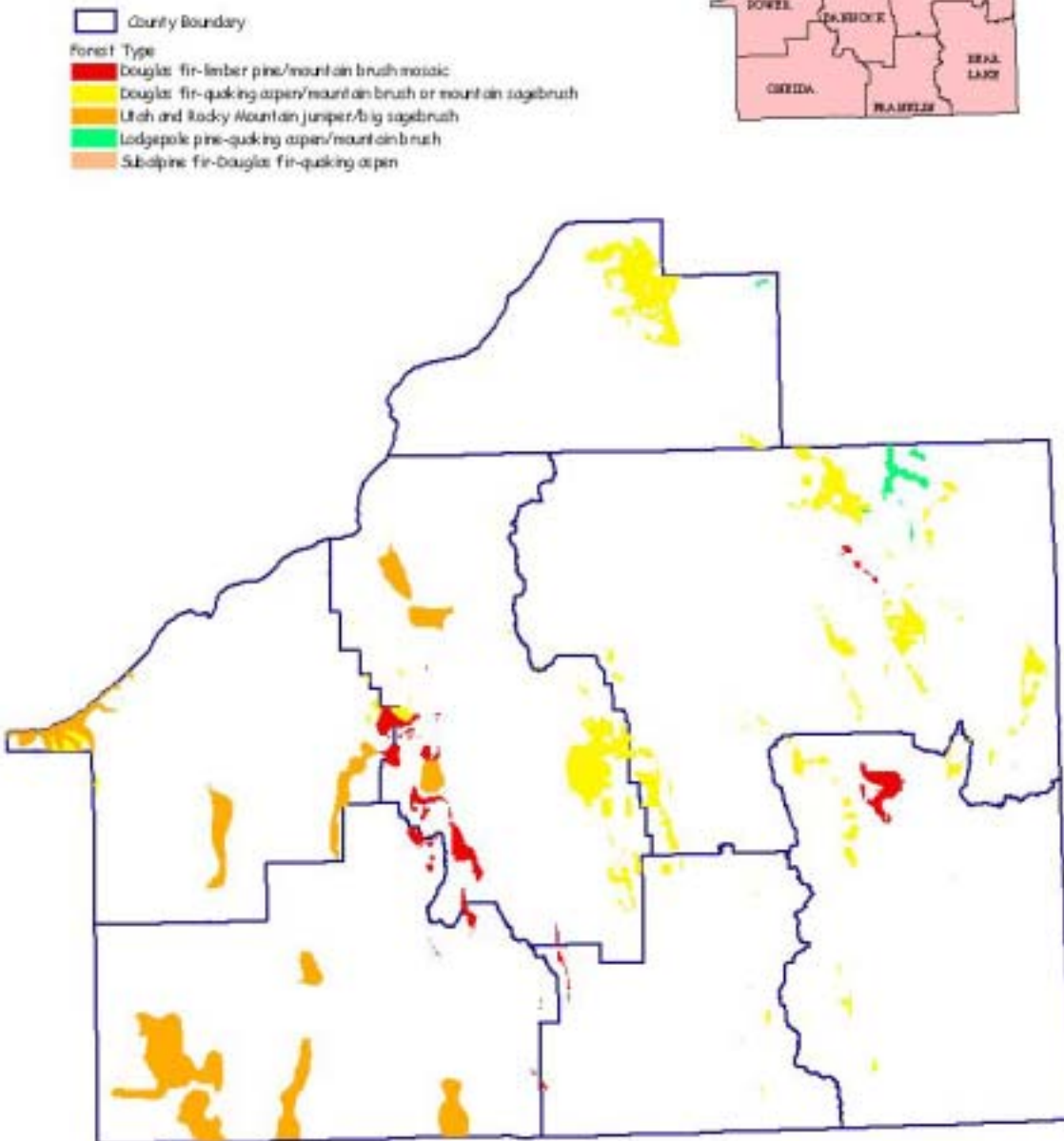


Figure 30.

Area 5 - Private Forest Land

Includes: Oneida, Franklin, Bear Lake, Caribou,
and portions of Bannock Power, Bingham.



As noted in the South Central Legacy Area, big game winter range is an important value to protect in this area, as well. In addition, there are species associated with the sagebrush steppe ecosystem that use timbered areas during certain times of the year. Sage grouse, now petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act, move into denser cover after the young hatch, particularly if those areas are reasonably close to the breeding leks. Other species of concern for which some tree cover that is associated with the sagebrush ecosystem include the Brewer's sparrow, sage sparrow and pygmy rabbit.

Given the relatively small amount of private forested land within this area and its location near transportation and river corridors, it has an increasing value for development. Its location also makes it important wildlife habitat, as well. Implementation of the Forest Legacy Program in this area would help protect wildlife habitat in key areas.

***Northeast**—Mountains dominate this area, including the peaks of the Boulder, White Cloud, River, and Lemhi ranges. Nestled between the peaks there are literally thousands of creeks, alpine lakes and rivers with elk and moose grazing in the meadows. The most spectacular vistas in Idaho are found in Stanley, which lies along the Salmon River. The Stanley Basin is punctuated with cattle ranches, forests and, increasingly, guest ranches.*

Further to the east and north, is a land where the snowcapped peaks of the Grand Tetons feed glistening lakes and free flowing rivers. A neighbor to both Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, the area shares much of the spectacular beauty. Just west of Yellowstone is the Island Park area, within the center of an ancient collapsed volcano and with acres of forests and wildlife, including trumpeter swans, moose and grizzly bear. Henry's Fork of the Snake River offers world-class fly-fishing (excerpted from Idaho's Official Travel Planner, Idaho Dept. of Commerce).

The higher elevations of this area and more abundant moisture has provided enough trees that, at one time, there were a number of sawmills in the area, located in Rexburg, St. Anthony and Salmon. Now, a large tourism and recreational based economy characterizes the area, with significant growth in the communities of Driggs and Teton, given their proximity to Jackson. Several counties in the area have less than 5,000 people, but the percentage of growth in Teton and Clark, particularly, may indicate future trends for the area.

**Table 26. Change in Population,
Northeast Legacy Area**

	1990 Census Population	2000 Census Population	•1990-00 Population	•Percent 1990-00
Lemhi	6,899	7,806	907	13.1%
Custer	4,133	4,342	209	5.1%
Butte	2,918	2,899	-19	-0.7%
Clark	762	1,022	260	34.1%
Fremont	10,937	11,819	882	8.1%
Madison	23,674	27,467	3,793	16.0%
Teton	3,439	5,999	2,560	74.4%
Bonneville	72,207	82,522	10,315	14.3%
Total	124,969	143,876	18,907	15.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

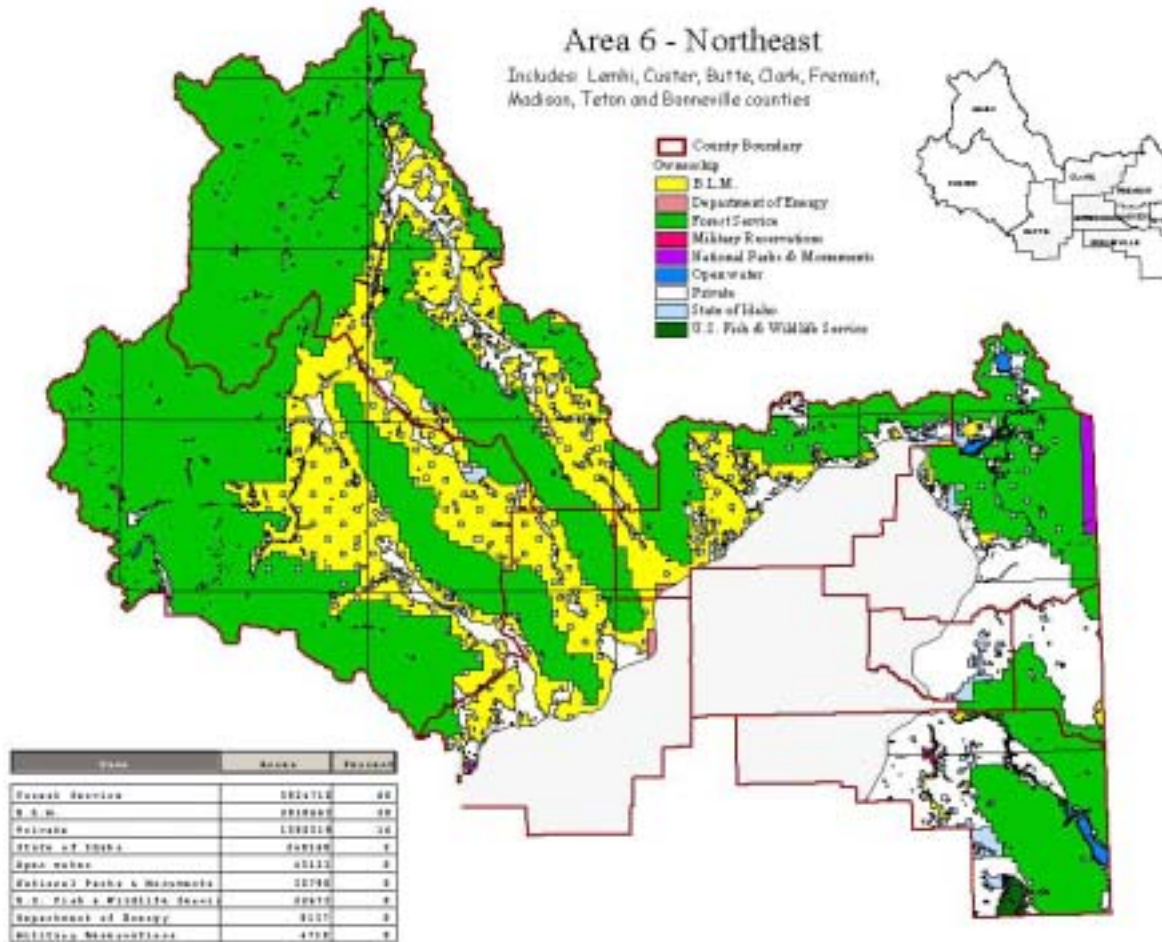
The proximity to Yellowstone, Jackson Hole and prime hunting and fishing provides some of the state's broadest and most valuable recreational opportunities. Elk and moose abound, and fly fishing in the upper Snake and Salmon Rivers is growing rapidly in popularity. In the winter, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing is popular. Consequently, rural residential and recreational developments are growing around Stanley, Island Park, Driggs and Teton, St. Anthony and Salmon. Growth in the recreational segment of the local economy is reflected in increased values of rural, private forestland.

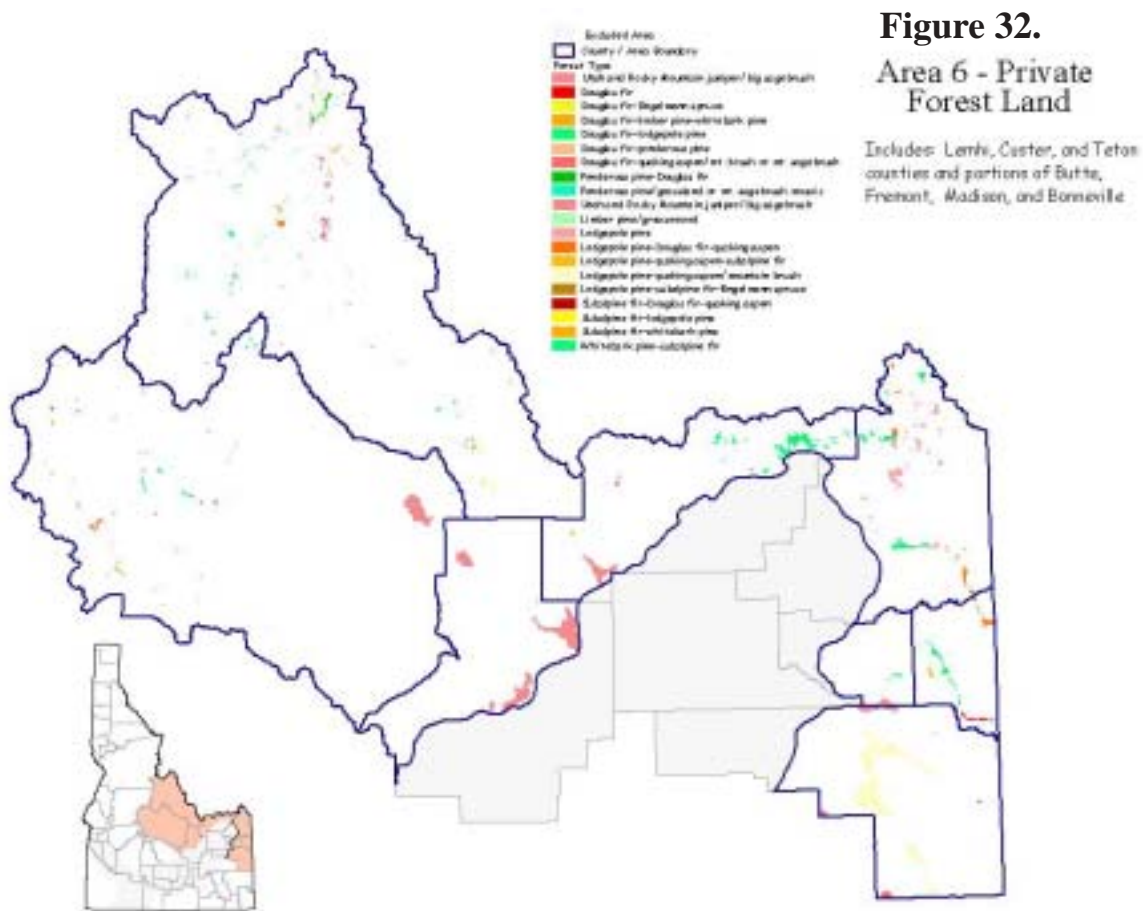
**Table 27. Private Forest Ownerships,
Northeast Area**

	Total Lands	Total Private Lands	Private Forested Land	Percent Private Land that is Forested
Butte	1,429,056	183,511	18,286	10.0
Clark	1,129,408	300,813	13,136	4.4
Custer	3,152,384	158,503	49,469	31.2
Fremont	1,194,752	370,316	-3,469	-0.9
Lemhi	2,921,152	233,189	70,916	30.4
Madison	301,824	214,093	5,082	2.4
Teton	288,256	191,275	17,317	9.1
Total	10,416,832	1,651,700	170,737	10.3

Source: Idaho Depts. Of Commerce and Lands

Figure 31. Land Ownership, Northeast Idaho





In addition to the big game species, Appendix III summarizes listed and candidate species for the area. It is wildlife values that are perhaps most at risk from conversions of the private forested lands, particularly given the important role that these lands play in “connecting” the agricultural valleys and river bottoms with the uplands. Species unique to this area include trumpeter swans, grizzly bear and wolves, all species associated with the Yellowstone Ecosystem. As common in other parts of the states, private forestlands in this area are often a part of larger ranches and farms and generally in the lower elevations. Implementation of the Forest Legacy Program would help protect important wildlife habitat, connectivity with publicly owned uplands, as well as access to public lands for recreation.